

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to Figures 2 and 3. This sheet, which includes Figures 2, 3 and 5, replaces the original sheet including Figures 2, 3 and 5. In Figures 2 and 3, the character 38 has been replaced in each of the figures by the character 41.

Attachments (2):    Replacement Sheet  
                             Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated December 1, 2006 and personal interview with the Examiner of February 15, 2007 in reference to the above-identified application. The Examiner set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months, making the present Amendment due by March 1, 2007. Filed concurrently herewith is a request for a two-month extension of time so that the present Amendment is due by May 1, 2007.

In the December 1, 2006 Office Action, claims 1-32 were pending. Of these, claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,666,838 to Modglin, et al. (hereinafter "Modglin"). Additionally, claims 4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Modglin in view of U.S. Patent 5,737,774 to Petty-Saphon, et al. (hereinafter "Petty-Saphon"). Lastly, the drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4).

Pursuant to the February 15, 2007 personal interview with the Examiner, with respect to the outstanding rejection of claims 1 and 26 (as well as their corresponding dependent claims) under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) to Mogdlin, it was agreed that the rejection will be withdrawn since the reference does not anticipate the claims. The Examiner also noted that she will review the parent application to determine whether the Mogdlin reference is even available as prior art for purposes of a possible rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103. With respect to

claims 14 and 32, Applicant agreed to amend the claims to remove the trademark to KEVLAR™ in the amendment.

In response to the Office Action and personal interview Applicant has amended the drawings. Specifically, in conformance with the Examiner's observations, Applicant has amended the drawings so that reference character "41" designates the free end. Reference character "38" continues to designate stitching.

Applicant has also amended the Specification so as to conform the recitation of the Specification to the amended drawings, therein adding 41 and deleting 38 as the character designating the free end.

As agreed pursuant to the February 15, 2007 personal interview with the Examiner, Applicant herein amends claims 14 and 32 to remove the trademark to KEVLAR™.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Modglin. However, in that the Examiner has agreed that this rejection will be withdrawn, Applicant respectfully offers that claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-32 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and should be allowed.

In the December 10, 2006 Office Action, claims 4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Modglin in view of Petty-Saphon. A prima facie case of obviousness requires that the prior art references when combined teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991) Pursuant to the February 15, 2007

personal interview with the Examiner, Examiner noted that she will review the parent application to determine whether the Mogdlin reference is even available as prior art for purposes of a possible rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103. Until such a determination is made by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully suggests that addressing the matter at this juncture would be premature. Briefly, Applicant would urge that Mogdlin is not available as a prior art reference. As a result, Applicant respectfully offers that claims 4 and 8 are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and should be allowed.

No additional claims fees are believed to be payable upon the Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the required fees, or to credit any overpayment, to deposit account number 13-1940.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is in complete condition for allowance, and action to that end is courteously solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved prior to the granting of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney or agent for the Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /John Wray Carpenter/  
Michael R. Henson, #39,222  
Timothy J. Martin, #28,640  
John W. Carpenter #57,830  
9250 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 200  
Lakewood, Colorado 80226  
(303) 232-3388